



STATE OF MICHIGAN

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
LANSING

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**Resource fair scheduled Thursday for Benton Harbor residents to learn about resources available to help reduce lead exposure**

*Bottled water distribution continues across the city*

LANSING, Mich. – A resource fair is being hosted for City of Benton Harbor residents to learn about the health impacts of lead and resources available to help reduce or eliminate lead from their homes on Thursday, Nov. 4, from 4 to 7 p.m.

The City of Benton Harbor Water Resource Fair is a collaborative effort that will include information and representatives from local community organizations, the City of Benton Harbor, Berrien County Health Department, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The event is being held at the Benton Harbor Housing Commission/ Virginia Edwards Community Center, 721 Nate Wells Drive in Benton Harbor. Attendees are asked to wear masks and masks will be available at the event.

“This Resource Fair will provide an opportunity for residents to ask questions about health effects of lead, how to get tested for lead and steps they can take to reduce or eliminate lead exposure in their homes and lives,” said Elizabeth Hertel, MDHHS director. “Information about services available to remove lead from their homes, how to get their water tested and other resources will also be available.”

Distribution of free bottled water continues with MDHHS and volunteers providing 117,561 cases at community distribution sites and through deliveries to residents who are homebound or lack access to transportation. Free bottled water is being provided by the state as residents are being encouraged to use bottled water for cooking, drinking, brushing teeth, rinsing foods and mixing powdered infant formula.

This action is part of an accelerated, across-the-board effort to reduce the risk of exposure to lead in drinking water while the city replaces all lead service lines.

To arrange water delivery to homebound or residents without transportation in the city of Benton Harbor, contact 211, which is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The upcoming schedule for bottled water pickup is:

**Tuesday, Nov. 2**

- Southwest Community Action Agency, 331 Miller Street, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. (Self-service)
- Abundant Life Church of God, 693 Columbus Avenue, noon – 2 p.m.

- Ebenezer Baptist Church, 214 E. Britain Avenue, 4 – 6 p.m.

### **Wednesday, Nov. 3**

- Southwest Community Action Agency, 331 Miller Street, 3 – 6 p.m., (Water loaded into vehicles by volunteers)

### **Thursday, Nov. 4**

- Ebenezer Baptist Church, 214 E. Britain Avenue, 10 a.m.-noon.
- Brotherhood of All Nations, 1286 Monroe Street, 4-6 p.m.
- Southwest Community Action Agency, 331 Miller Street, 4.-6 p.m. (Self-service)

### **Friday, Nov. 5**

- Southwest Community Action Agency, 331 Miller St., 10 a.m.-2 p.m. (Self-service)

### **Saturday, Nov. 6**

- Boys & Girls Club of Benton Harbor, 600 Nate Wells Sr. Drive, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.,
- Harbor of Hope Seventh-Day Adventist Church, 769 Pipestone Street, 4-6 p.m.

The ongoing response in Benton Harbor includes the city, Berrien County Health Department, local community organizations, MDHHS and the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy.

Additional dates and locations for bottled water pick up will be added to make sure community needs are met. Information will be posted on [Michigan.gov/MiLeadSafe](https://Michigan.gov/MiLeadSafe).

To ensure the continued success of bottled water distribution locations in Benton Harbor and to recognize the city residents who have been stepping up to donate their time and talent, the State of Michigan has partnered with local agencies and will begin paying city residents who work at state-supported bottled water distribution sites. Individuals who want to serve as community ambassadors to help distribute water should connect with an established distribution site. Individuals or groups who want to serve as unpaid volunteers can sign up [on the United Way's online platform](#).

MDHHS is engaging in a long-term effort to eliminate lead action level exceedances, educate communities on the effects of lead in drinking water, and remove lead service lines. These efforts also include recently approved funds to remove lead from homes in the city. Families living in Benton Harbor can apply for this service by filling out and mailing in [an application that is available online](#). Residents also can call 866-691-5323 to obtain information.

For questions about lead, MDHHS can be reached at 866-691-5323 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

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[City of Benton Harbor Water Resource Fair flyer](#)